

## **Dr. Ella K. Dearborn Letter**

S348

1923

1folder

Manuscripts & Rare Books Division  
Indiana State Library

Finding Aid by: Nikki Stoddard Schofield, January 2014

### **Biographical Note:**

Dr. Ella K. Dearborn worked at Diseases of Women and Children, Gladsheim, 800 Union Avenue North, Portland, Oregon, in July 1923 when this letter was written. Miss Margaret Scott, to whom the letter was written, was preparing a story for publication about spoon collecting.

#### *Source:*

Information Found within Collection

---

### **Scope and Content:**

The five-page, typed letter was addressed to "My dear Miss Scott" on July 7, 1923, in reply to letters Margaret Scott had written to her. Dr. Dearborn states: "I now have 1822 spoons." "Alas, the spoon fad has gone by, and very few new souvenir spoons are made." She told Ms. Scott that she buys collections from pawn shops "whether I can afford them or not." "Historically, spoons are very interesting."

On page two, Dr. Dearborn wrote about a salad spoon she saw in 1894 but did not buy until 1921 because she could not afford it. On page three, she states: "Thus far I have the largest collection in the world." Her cabinet which houses the spoons is worth \$250, and the spoons cost about \$4,000.00 but "would cost double that now." She keeps three books listing the spoons by number and recording various details about each spoon.

On page four, Ella described an 1863 teaspoon with the figure of a soldier standing on a U.S. shield. The soldier is wearing a cap and long overcoat. In the bowl is a bust of George Washington with his name below. There is no maker's mark stamped on this spoon as there usually is. She lists the other three major spoon collectors: Mrs. Nellie Thompson of Quebec, Canada; Mrs. George Baum of Paterson, New Jersey; and Mrs. E. H. Curtis of Oakland, California.

On the last page of her letter, Dr. Dearborn listed her spoons by class, such as flowers, forts, churches, monuments, light houses, waterfalls, universities, hotel, animals, bridges, mountains, people, and boats.

---

## Photocopy Policy:

Manuscript material **CANNOT** be photocopied or digitized in its entirety. Photocopies and/or digital reproductions (i.e. scans, digital photographs) cannot exceed **25%** of a **COLLECTION** or **FOLDER** within a collection. In some cases, photocopying may not be permitted due to the condition of the item. Please check with the Manuscript Librarian for possible alternatives.

---

## Collection Inventory

### Item Listing:

Date	
7-7-1923	Letter to Miss Scott from Dr. Ella K. Dearborn (5 typed pages)

---

## Collection Information:

Size of Collection:	1 folder, 1 item
Collection Dates:	July 7, 1923
Provenance:	None
Access:	The Collection is Open for Research Use
Restrictions:	None
Reproduction Rights:	Permission to reproduce, exhibit, or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Manuscript and Rare Books Division, Indiana State Library.
Language:	Materials are entirely in: English
Alternate Formats:	None.
Related Holdings:	None.
Collection Notes:	None.